



CITY OF SHREVEPORT

Department of

Water & Sewerage

505 Travis, Suite 500, Shreveport, LA 71101

Phone: 318/673-7668 • FAX: 318/673-

www.shreveportla.gov/dept/water/index.htm

Date: **May 24, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7668

City of Shreveport Issues Water Conservation Tips Ahead of Summertime Heat

- **W&S Department to issue a new water saving tip each week of summer**

Last year the city of Shreveport experienced record heat and drought, putting a tremendous strain on the area's water supply. Despite what may have been the worst period of heat and drought in its history, which included several nearly month-long stretches with no measurable rainfall, and one month, August, when the **average** daily high temperature was more than 104 degrees, Shreveport was not forced to impose mandatory water conservation measures but asked for voluntary actions.

For 2012 the city finds itself in better shape heading into June than last year. Through May 20, Shreveport has experienced 19.19 inches of rainfall, while the same time last year only saw 13.51 inches of rain.

However, there are indications that the area is in for another hot and dry summer - with prolonged periods of little to no rainfall. In light of this, the Water & Sewerage Department would like to remind everyone of these simple conservation measures that save and prevent unnecessary and wasteful use of our most precious natural resource – water:

- Check for and repair any water leaks in and around your home or business
- Adjust lawn sprinkler heads so they are not watering the street or driveway
- Wash clothes and dishes only when you have a full load
- Do not water in the middle (hottest part) of day between hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. when evaporation rates are the highest. Best time of the day is when evaporation and demand rates are the lowest, 10 p.m. - 5 a.m.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them off
- Use water from creative sources like air conditioner condensate for watering plants
- Store rainwater in cisterns for use in gardens
- Adjust blade on mower to higher level—lawns are more tolerant of heat and lack of rainfall when kept at a higher level
- Take reasonable length showers rather than baths

Visit the City web site or <http://www.epa.gov/watersense> for these and more water conservation information.

Each week for the summer months of June through August, the Water & Sewerage Department will issue a specific water conservation tip and detail how its actions will not only help maintain our water supply but save citizens a few dollars on their water bill as well.

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Date: **June 4, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 1 - **Don't scalp your lawn!**

One often-overlooked way to conserve water as well as help your lawn withstand dry and hot periods this summer is to simply raise your mower blade to a higher setting. Cutting your grass at higher levels (3 to 3½ inches) helps to encourage root development and reduces the amount of moisture loss from the soil protected by the taller grass.

Mowing at higher levels also leaves grass clippings on your lawn that adds shade for the soil. The clippings break down slowly, which helps improve the quality of the soil and adds a trace of nitrogen.

Each week during the summer, the City of Shreveport Department of Water & Sewerage will be issuing another water conservation tip. For more information on this and other water conservation tips, log onto <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>.

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Date: **June 11, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 2 – **Fix those leaks!**

The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, or enough water to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry.

Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking showerheads. All are easily correctable.

A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water use on your water bill. If a family of four uses more than 12,000 gallons per month in the winter it's likely that there is a serious leak.

Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

A leaky faucet or shower that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year. A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year or enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher.

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Date: **June 18, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 3 – **Use less water!**

Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave you can save up to 8 gallons of water a day! That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a huge fish tank that holds 6 small sharks!

Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons, while a bath uses up to 70 gallons! If you do take a bath, be sure to plug the drain right away and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub. To save even more water, keep your shower under five minutes long -- try timing yourself with a clock the next time you hop in -- and install a low flow showerhead to save up to 75 gallons a week per person.

If your toilet is leaking, you could be wasting up to 200 gallons a day. Check the flapper to see if it needs to be replaced. The rubber part often decays or has mineral build up on it. It's best to replace the whole rubber flapper, and it's a relatively easy do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time. Replacing your older toilets with new ultra-low-flush models can save up to 350 gallons of water a week.

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Brian A. Crawford, (Interim) Director

Date: **July 2, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 4 – **Save water in the kitchen!**

Washing dishes by hand can use between 20 and 40 gallons of water, depending on if the water is left running. Hand wash dishes just once a day using the least amount of detergent possible. This will cut down on rinsing and the need to run water to get all the soap out of the sink. Put the washed dishes in the sink basin or a large container and rinse them all at one time.

Most electric dishwashers use only about 10 gallons. Make sure to run a full load to maximize the water savings of up to 30 gallons a week. If your dishwasher is a new model you don't need to rinse your dishes as much before you load it. Soak pots and pans instead of leaving water running as you scrub them.

Compost your food scraps or put them in the trash (you can place scraps in a plastic bag and freeze them until time for your next garbage pick up) instead of washing them into a garbage disposal. (saving you up to 60 gallons of water a week.)

Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way every drop goes down you and not the drain.

If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink! Drop them in a house plant instead.

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Brian A. Crawford, (Interim) Director

Date: **July 9, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 5 – **Save water while doing laundry!**

Nearly 22% of indoor home water use comes from doing laundry. Save water by making sure to adjust the settings on your machine to the proper load size.

A typical load of laundry can use as much as 40 gallons of water per load. Make sure to only do laundry when you have a full load or adjust the load size on the washer if possible. This can save you up to 100 gallons a week.

Most front-loading machines are more energy and water efficient, using just over 20 gallons a load, while most top-loading machines, unless they are energy-efficient, use 40 gallons per load.

Washing dark clothes in cold water saves on both water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.

The permanent press cycle of your clothes washer uses an added 5 gallons of water for the extra rinse.

Replace your old clothes washer if possible. Newer washers, especially those that are Energy Star rated, use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load.

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Brian A. Crawford, (Interim) Director

Date: **July 17, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 6 – **Save water outdoors!**

Collect rain water, or save water that you've run in a bucket while waiting for water to warm up in the sink or shower, for watering plants.

For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate overflow.

Use native plants and shrubs that need far less watering than other species. Use strategically placed soaker hoses to cut down on evaporation.

Instead of hosing down your patio, balcony, driveway or sidewalk, use a broom or blower. (saving up to 100 gallons a week.) Walkways and patios provide space that doesn't ever need to be watered. They can also add value to your property.

If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

Use mulch to slow evaporation of moisture around landscape shrubs and plants. Add 2-4 inches of organic material such as compost or bark mulch.

The best time to water your yard is early in the morning since it helps prevent the growth of fungus. Early and late watering also reduces evaporation. Water long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will do the most good. Put an empty tuna can on your lawn while running the sprinkler – when it's full, you've watered about the right amount. Most lawns only need about 1" of water each week.

Leave lower branches on trees and shrubs and allow leaf litter to accumulate on the soil. This keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation.

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Brian A. Crawford, (Interim) Director

Date: **July 30, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 7 – **Use smart landscaping!**

Consider using xeriscape landscaping. This is landscaping that conserves the maximum possible amount of water through planning and design, soil preparation, appropriate plant and turf selection, mulching, efficient irrigation, and appropriate maintenance.

Start with a plan. Consider the lay of the land, the eye appeal, slopes and valleys, placement of walkways, irrigation methods, ease of maintenance and water requirements.

Prepare the soil. Have the soil analyzed to find out what supplements should be added. Shrubs and flower beds should have 4 to 6 inches of organic matter, such as peat moss or shredded tree bark, added to the soil. Once plants are established add more mulch to conserve soil moisture.

Selecting native plants that are naturally adapted to local conditions and use less water is best. Also use nonnative plants that have been adapted to local conditions. Grass lawns are the thirstiest part of your landscape, so grassy areas should be kept small and planted with grass types that need the least water.

Xericaping may reduce water needs but may still need more water than natural rainfall can supply. You can use sprinklers that spray water over plants or a drip system to slowly feed the plants. Water infrequently but thoroughly.

Maintenance on a xeriscaped area is cut in half through reduced mowing, more efficient watering and annual mulching. Weeding and fertilizing is usually not required more than twice a year.

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Brian A. Crawford, (Interim) Director

Date: **August 6, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 8 – **Swimming pools!**

The average pool takes 22,000 gallons of water to fill, and if you don't cover it, hundreds of gallons of water per month can be lost due to evaporation. Installing covers on your pools and spas will help keep them clean, reduce the need to add chemicals, and cut down on the evaporation.

Check your pool periodically for leaks. Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later to see if you have a leak.

Check the pool system's shutoff valve. If the water level stays higher than normal and it overflows when people are using it, call your plumber.

Make sure your swimming pools, fountains, and ponds are equipped with recirculating pumps. Also consider a new water-saving pool filter in your swimming pool.

Avoid purchasing recreational water toys that require a constant flow of water, and don't allow children to play with the hose. (saving up to 10 gallons a minute.)

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Brian A. Crawford, (Interim) Director

Date: **August 14, 2012**

Press Release

To: **News Room**

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons: Virginia Lee, 673-7660

Department of Water and Sewerage weekly water conservation Tip # 9 – **Washing your vehicle!**

Washing your vehicle yourself is relaxing and satisfying, however, many gallons of fresh water are used each time you do so.

Clean your vehicle using a pail of soapy water and sponge. Use the hose only for rinsing – this simple practice can save as much as 150 gallons of water. Use a hose nozzle that shuts off water when you are not wetting or rinsing the car. Never allow the hose to run continuously.

Use a commercial car wash. Most of the newer commercial facilities in Shreveport filter and recycle their wash water.

Another option is to use a waterless car washing system. Washing your vehicle waterless could save a range of 80-140 gallons of water per average car wash at home, and cuts down on pollutants that go down storm drains and into local waterways. Find more information about waterless car washing systems on-line.

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